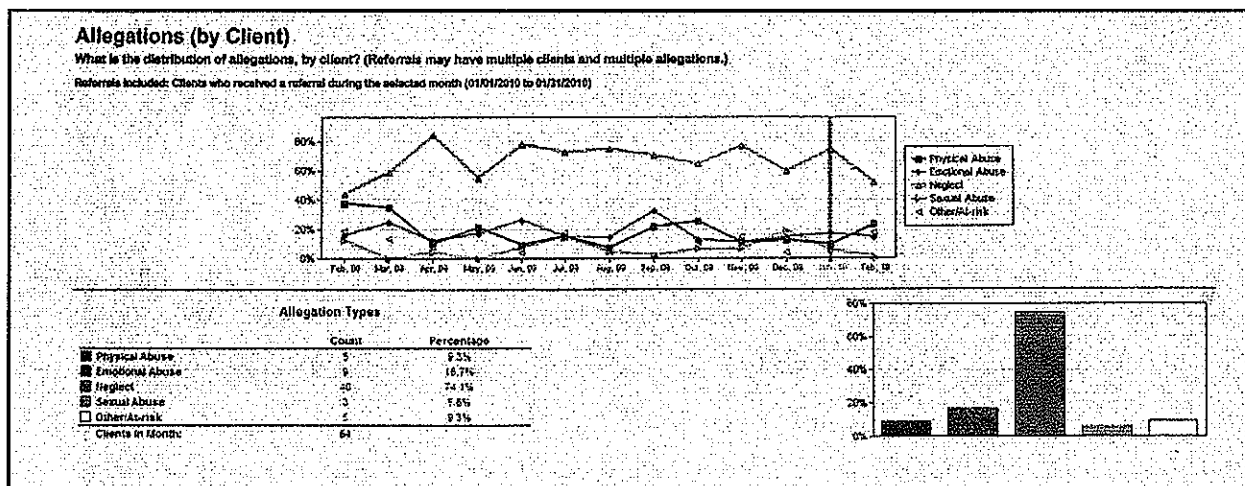


LASSEN COUNTY HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Reason for Inquiry: One complaint, review procedures and policies pertinent to complaint.

Inquiry Procedure: The Grand Jury met with Teri O'Brien, Director of the Child Protective Services. She gave a detailed overview of the functions and state mandated requirements of the Child Protective Services.

Background: The Child Protective Services employs a staff of ten social workers whose classifications range from CPS II to CPS IV. There are supervisors for emergency cases and court cases, while unit clerks or office assistants handle the phones and paperwork. Presently, the department receives approximately 45 reports of abuse per month. Sources include teachers, school bus drivers and others. All incidents are screened and many are determined to be unfounded, inconclusive or substantiated. This process is completed by a social worker utilizing a computerized risk assessment tool and interviews. For emergency situations, children are placed in a "certified home" for two weeks while the investigation proceeds. Following a state mandated process and court proceedings, a judge will determine the placement of the child/children. Cases are reviewed every six months. At the 12 months evaluation in a placement case (Foster care, living with a relative), a determination is made as to performance. At present, there are 48 children in placement. The department's goal is "children will remain in the family home only when it is safe."



Recommendations: None.

Commendation: The Lassen County Grand Jury commends Mrs. O'Brien and the Child Protective Services for maintaining a process that satisfies the needs of the youth in Lassen County.